upto 74%) are also allowed to set up facilities for value addition to the minerals or integrated facilities for mining, mineral separation and value addition.

Rare Earth Mineral deposits in Kerala

442. SHRIN.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) what is the expected quantity of rare earth mineral deposits in the coastal area of Kollam and Allepey Districts of Kerala;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether Government have received any applications seeking order for high level probe into the alleged move of leasing out the mining rights to a particiles company;

(e) if so, the action taken in the matter and details thereof; and

(f) if not the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Atomic Mineral Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Enrgy (DAE) has been carrying out exploration of beach sand mineral resources of the country for over five decades. On the basis of studies carried out so far, rare earth mineral (monazite) occurring in the beach sand of Kerala coast including resources of lakes and sea beds, is esimated at 1.35 million tones.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) In tune with the general policy of decontrol and liberalisation of the Government of India *vide* Resolution of 6lh October, 1998 has notified a modified policy on exploitation of beach sand minerals, according to which wholly owned Indian companies are allowed to engage in mining and mineral separation activities after obtaining requisite mining lease from the State Government concerned and a licence from the Department of Atomic Energy. Similarly Joint Venture Companies (including with foreign direct investment upto 74%) are also allowed to set up Facilities for value addition to the minerals for integrated facilities for mining, mineral separation and value addition. The

allegations contained and the apprehensions expressed in the communication appear to be without any basis.

Improvement of facilities by Nuclear Fuel Corporation

443. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Fuel Corporation has drawn a strategy to improve its facilities to meet the increasing demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has set up a target of 20,000 MW power generation by 2020; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently, the Nuclear Fuel Complex (which is a constituent unit under Department of Atomic Energy and not a Corporation) has the facility to manufacture fuel for ail the operating power reactors in the country [12 Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and 2 Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs)]. New facilities are planned for the fabrication of fuel and zirconium alloy components for the two PHWRs under construction at Tarapur (TAPP 3&4).

(c) The Vision-2020 of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) aims at setting up about 20,000 MWe of nuclear power capacity by the year 2020.

(d) The present nuclear power capacity, in operation, in the country is 2720 MWe. With the completion of two units of 500 MWe each—TAPP 3&4 (proposed to be uprated to 540 MWe) at Tarapur, Maharashtra and one 220 MWe unit out of 2x220 MWe units (Kaiga 3&4) at Kaiga, Karnataka (presently under construction), the nuclear power capacity will increase to 4020 MWe by the end oftheXth Plan.

The proposals in the Xth Plan envisage the commencement of new schemes for reaching a total nuclear power capacity of 9935 MWe by the end of Xlth Plan. Additional projects are also planned in the Xlth Plan and beyond to achieve a nuclear power capacity of about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020. This capacity addition programme is subject to the availability of budgetary support from the Government.